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Better Business Bureau ex-official is put on probation for lying to FBI

The Plain Dealer - Cleveland, Ohio

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A former Better Business Bureau official was placed on three years' probation for lying to the FBI about being harassed by a Beachwood psychologist he was investigating.

James M. Sutter, of Lakewood, who worked as a BBB trade specialist, pleaded guilty Sept. 17 before U.S. District Judge George W. White, who sentenced him yesterday. In addition to probation, White placed Sutter under house detention for 60 days, forbidding him from leaving his home except to go to work and to medical appointments.

Sutter admitted he lied about being followed by a car licensed to Edward L. Ohlson. Sutter told White at the time of his sentencing that he had become overzealous in his pursuit of his investigation.

Ohlson is under federal investigation in connection with an advance-fee loan scam involving millions of dollars. Through a lawyer, Ohlson has denied being involved in such a scam.

Sutter was forced to resign from the BBB Aug. 13.

David H. Weiss, president of the BBB in Cleveland, declined comment yesterday, saying the BBB and Sutter are defendants in a suit filed by Ohlson in Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Court. Ohlson is asking for \$18.1 million, contending he was arrested as a result of false information Sutter supplied authorities.

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Abstract (Document Summary)

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